

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1853.

CONGRESS.

There was no business of importance acted on in the Senate yesterday. Several bills were introduced and a Chaplain was elected.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES a Chaplain was also elected, in voting for whom and for Printer the sitting was chiefly occupied. ROBERT ARMSTRONG, Esq., proprietor of the *Union* newspaper, was elected Printer. For this office the proprietors of this paper find that, although not candidates, they received some sixty-odd votes, comprising nearly the whole Whig strength of the House, for which voluntary mark of good-will the proprietors tender their respectful acknowledgments.

An attempt was made to pass through its several readings a bill to give the State of Indiana nineteen thousand acres of land, in lieu of a former grant not realized by the State; but the House determined the subject should undergo examination in Committee of the Whole.

Various notices were given of propositions to grant alternate sections of land for railroads.

The Annual Report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received and ordered to be printed. This report, it will be remembered, is made direct to Congress, and does not go in with the President's Message, as do the reports of the other Departments.

EXPLOSION OF THE LAST CUBAN PLOT.

Our readers have learnt, from time to time, through the columns of this paper, with what earnest zeal certain journalists in our country have been engaged in propagating a wondrous story, incredible on the face of it, and discredited by us from the beginning, of a scheme mediated by the British Government, and Heaven knows whom besides, for converting the valuable Spanish Island of Cuba into an African Colony; and that the repeated asseveration of such a scheme by the official paper of this Government has had the effect to excite surprise in intelligent minds at the infatuation under which it evidently labored, and some curiosity to know under what influence and upon what foundation it had been wrought up to this enthusiasm. We have ourselves, from the first, ascribed these articles to honest credulity rather than to ill intention on the part of the Editor of the *Union*. That journal, it is now obvious, has been imposed upon by false or feigned representations, against which longer experience in its vocation might perhaps have served to protect it. The delusion, however, could not last forever. The columns of the New York *"Times"* of Monday last furnish a clue to the mystery, if they do not wholly account for it.

Without further introduction, we present to our readers sufficient extracts from the number of the *"Times"* above designated to dispel all doubts upon the subject. In an editorial article referring to a flimsy document published in its columns the *"Times"* says:

"We publish in this morning's *Times* the translation of a very interesting Address to the PEOPLE of CUBA, from the Cuban Junta, or Committee of Cuban Exiles, having its headquarters in this city. The chief object of the Address, which has been secretly but very widely circulated in Cuba, is to show by the collection of historical facts that Spain is about to take measures for surrendering Cuba to the domination of the unfriended slaves; and that the only way in which so disastrous a result can be prevented is by a revolution, which shall treat the Island from Spanish power and place its government in the hands of the people. The Junta state that their preparations are complete; that the exiles are thoroughly united, and that a REVOLUTION in Cuba is inevitable. They count upon the warm sympathy of the American people, and assert that the Government will not throw obstacles in their way. The Address is very ably written, and is well worthy of a perusal."

The Address of the "Cuban Junta," to which attention is invited in the preceding paragraph, fills more than three columns of the small type of the *"Times."* It is headed "Appeal of the Revolutionists," &c., and is signed by five persons, whose names indicate that they are of foreign birth, and who profess to be the representatives of the Cuban Junta in New York. It is also worthy of note that the Address is dated at New York on the 10th of November last, only a few days after the first broaching of the subject of it by the Washington *Union*.

From this Address we copy two or three paragraphs. The one which we place first in order describes what was the direct aim and purpose of the contrivers of this new scheme of agitation at the headquarters in New York. That purpose is explained in the following extract from the close of the Address:

"Let us hazard the revolution as the only plank to preserve us from shipwreck. Behind the revolution and before, will certainly march, in mass, the people, and even believe the Government of the United States, which already, from the present moment, form common cause with those who are called by a geographical necessity to share the destinies which await them."

Two other paragraphs of the Address show, beyond reasonable doubt, the object for which the original imposture was practised upon the Government paper in this city, and has been so long persevered in. These paragraphs are the following:

"The journals of most note here, and among them the organ of the Administration, agree and repeat each day that there have been received from time to time statements confirmatory of the plan of establishing in the Island of Cuba the apprenticeship system of Jamaica. The Washington *Union* declares itself so completely satisfied of the truth of that proposition, and of the sanction of Spain, France, and England to it, that it adds, 'We will venture to predict that the whole people will be openly manifested and made public as soon as the Cuba, so as to realize that idea, in a secure manner.' These and other revelations come from Washington, emanating doubtless from a source worthy of the greatest credit. We must therefore conclude that all the antecedents and all the data collected at present are convincing that the apprenticeship system of Cuba is on the point of being authoritatively established in the Island of Cuba."

"That system—that infernal work of the Machiavellism of the English Government—that sacrifice which a Queen, with the title of Mother, makes of our life and fortunes, involves our inevitable ruin. The free importation of negroes from Africa in the quality of apprentices for the term of ten years, at the end of which they will be left at full liberty in the Island, will be its principal provision."

The English Government will have, by right of registry and other analogous means, direct intervention in the fulfillment of the agreement as a guaranty which the well-known Spanish faithlessness obliges it to exact; and at the end of fifty years the slavery of the island will be free. What a horrible picture is presented as an infallible consequence of the destructive principle involved in the first and last of the bases of the project!"

As putting to rest effectually this fabulous story of the "Africanization of Cuba," we give place to the following correspondence, a printed copy of which was received yesterday in a letter from an American gentleman of the highest character residing in the city of Paris. These letters scatter to the winds the whole fabric of this idle and mischievous invention:

From Galignani's Messenger.

PARIS, NOVEMBER 18, 1853.

"DEAR LORD HOWDEN: I have been ruminating upon some of the topics of our conversation yesterday evening on American affairs; not 'chewing the cud' of any 'bitter fancy,' for of that ingredient not a scrap ever escaped your lips, during all our long and friendly intercourse, when my countrymen or country and its institutions were the theme. One of the subjects to which I allude, and with reference to which your lordship spoke so frankly, is the suspected coquetry (I will not say intrigue) which England is practicing with Spain, in order to control the ulterior 'destiny' of the Island of Cuba, and mean time to regulate its internal government and change its social economy, in at least one pregnant sense of the latter expression. On this head some of the leading, and, from their relations to the Federal Government, most authoritative, journals in the United States have, in my belief as erroneously as too hastily, imputed to Downing street, and to your lordship specifically, underinspiration from that far-famed locality, the design of 'Africanizing' the 'Queen of the Antilles.' As the most efficient auxiliary to this end, she is not only to be allowed to import ad libitum, but to be incontinentally aided in importing the aboriginal sons and daughters of Ham in masses, innumerable by numbers that have a name; thereby rendering her not only, as is supposed, a dangerous neighbor, but an unenviable possession in the panlo-past future, for the 'insatiable archers' on her northern flank! Now, the whole range and precise 'modus operandi' of this portentous scheme I pretend not to comprehend even darkly, much less to indicate the ways and means, open or subdus, by which it is to be carried into effect. I cannot do more, therefore, to enlighten you on the subject than to commend to your attention two or three articles, with the commentaries thereon, contained in some of the Washington and other papers, herewith sent, and which I have just received. Among them are the National Intelligencer and the Union, journals of repute and conducted with sagacity, and both, it is believed, incapable of inventing or perverting facts upon any subject, and least of all upon one of so much 'pith and moment' in a national, not a party, point of view. Whence the information was derived, or how transmitted, upon which their several speculations and provisions are founded, it is not now important to your lordship any more than it is to the object of this note to inquire. That it has a cis-Atlantic origin is next to certain, and therefore the sooner it is, in the interest of truth and of both countries, nullified by an authentic contradiction the better. You will perceive that the American papers are discussing the subject under different points of view, as best suits party purposes; but they nearly all deprecate, and with notable vivacity of expression, the project which England is said to have ever and anon in her 'mind's eye,' of trying to effect the early manumission of the slaves in Cuba. To achieve this end the poor African is to be rescued from his thirteenth century and the pursuit of his man-eating compatriots, and consigned, with exquisite humanity, to a servitude under the name of 'probationary apprenticeship' of ten years. At the expiration of that period, if he be reported alive, and hard-working Captains-General do not, for the sake of their pockets, extend the term to that of his natural life, he is to be set free from his friends, and no more cared for by them; the 'world' all before him, and Providence his guide. Now, my Lord, it is hardly necessary for me to assure you that my faith is not facile enough to credit the existence, or the proximate contemplation, on the part of your Government, of any such bold and bootless experiment, profitless because its results would be mischievous to the poor negro himself. In addressing you this letter I build largely, but I hope not too boldly, upon the general dispositions which, for long years, you have manifested towards me, and, if possible, still more upon the friendly sentiments and lofty unprejudiced views which you have always entertained towards the United States. But, as the subject is a delicate one for you in your official position to treat further than a correction of the statements here referred to, I would have you dispose of it as you deem 'wisest, discreetest, best.' Meantime, as always, I remain, my Lord, very faithfully and sincerely, yours,

F. P. CORBIN, of Virginia.

To His Excellency Lord HOWDEN, &c.

PARIS, NOVEMBER 14, 1853.

"MY DEAR CORBIN: I have this moment received your letter of yesterday, and I can assure you that it has not in the least embarrassed me. Our long friendship gives you a perfect right to ask me any questions that in a public situation I can answer with propriety; and your task will have told you that in the present case I must be full as anxious to impart the truth as you can be to know it. I have read the strange statements you have sent me about England wishing to 'Africanize' Cuba, and about the arguments which I have been making in Madrid to that effect; and I tell you, in the most solemn manner such laughable (though wicked) fabrications allow, my unqualified contradiction of the whole matter. I have not the slightest hesitation in telling you what have been, during the last three years, my negotiations with the Spanish Government respecting Cuba, and you will see whether there is even the slightest foundation for rumors which seem to have been most sedulously spread abroad in the United States. Firstly, I have been making unceasing representations at the number of slaves annually imported into the island, and complaints of the almost open manner in which the traffic was carried on under the very noses of the Captains-General, always excepting the excellent General Concha. Secondly, I have been making fruitless attempts to get the Spanish Government to declare the abominable traffic in men piracy; that is to say, to follow the example of the United States in this particular. Thirdly, I passed my time in anxious solicitations to obtain the ultimate and complete freedom of those negroes called 'Emancipados,' which have been fraudulently detained in bondage since the year 1817, in disregard of treaties. I rejoice to say that the Spanish Government has listened to the dictates of justice and humanity, and has granted me this boon. Fourthly, I have been endeavoring to procure an abrogation of that intolerant and immoral law by which foreigners wishing to settle in Cuba are obliged to change their religion, on the somewhat startling principle (not understood elsewhere) that becoming bad men is a satisfactory preliminary to becoming good subjects. To these official negotiations I have added, at various times, friendly and officious exhortations to improve the internal system of the island by facilitating the administration of justice, and by liberalizing the nominations to office and employment among the natives of the island. You will see what I really have done, or rather attempted to do, is very different from what I am said to have done in your papers. When the true state of the case is known and ignorance or malice dispelled, I even reckon upon the good wishes of your countrymen in the success of the measures I ask, so consonant with your own laws and institutions. In all that I have told you with entire candor the United States can only see the natural working of England's declared and unchanging policy in a cause which is dear to her; and Spain herself must feel that, in days like these, unless she executes her engagements and modifies her intolerance, she can never hope to enter again, and as she ought to do, into the hierarchy of nations."

"Believe me, my dear Corbin, with great regard, yours sincerely,

HOWDEN.

F. CORBIN, Esq., Paris."

THE WAR IN TURKEY.

Notwithstanding that the latest news from the seat of war on the Danube is so contradictory as scarcely to afford any reliable information, we place the essential part of it before our readers in the subjoined compilation derived from English newspapers, one of which, in remarking upon the discrepancies which characterize the different reports, says:

"So utterly improbable and contradictory are many of the accounts given that it is a waste of time and type to report them. While one report says that Gortschakoff was repulsed from before Oltenita, another asserts that he drove the Turks across the Danube; a third says that the Turks stormed Bucharest; a fourth that they had cleared the Russian soil. Probably no action deserving Gortschakoff's division had the Turks hemmed in and they were at his mercy; a sixth takes liberties with the geography of the place, and relates that the Russians were retreating to Kronstadt, an Austrian town, and that a body of Turks had been dispatched through Servia to intercept them."

"There are other rumors more improbable still, and we are thrown back on the facts that are already known, that 100,000 Turks are north of the river Danube; that fighting, which resulted unfavorably to the Russians, had taken place at several points; that the Turkish forces were victorious in Asia; that the Russians were in expectation of strong reinforcements, already near the Pruth; and the Moslem commander was determined to push on until he had fulfilled his promise to drive the invaders from the Pruth; and the army of Gortschakoff, the name has been fought since the repulse of Gortschakoff from Oltenita. Skirmishes are almost daily, but they have no weight on the general issue. The enthusiasm of the Turks since it was known that the Sultan will himself command, has been extraordinary. The following is the document in which the Sultan officially announces his intention to take the field in person. It was read to a Grand Council, which was attended by the Sultan, on the 21st of November:

"My worthy Vizier: I cannot sufficiently congratulate myself upon the zeal and enthusiasm of my troops, upon the devotion and fidelity of all my functionaries; sentiments which my subjects in general have never ceased, on the occasion of all the wars, and involving that place, to show me ever since the day that there appeared a probability that the difference between my Imperial Government and Russia would end in war."

"As regards the present—the state of war being a certainty—I do not doubt the result, every man is ready to lend his support with eagerness and to fulfill his duties."

"As the real cause of this war consists only in the praiseworthy resolution to maintain the sacred rights and the independence of my empire, relying upon the mighty power of the Ottoman Empire, and invoking that spirit of our Prophet, I have decided, with God's will, to be present at the accomplishment of such a duty in the first days of spring."

"It is therefore advisable to provide at once for the preparations which my sword will demand, and the first general quarters of my guard will be at Adrianople. It is urgent that all that is necessary for the troops which will be under my command be prepared beforehand."

"You must therefore, in concert with my Ministers, hasten to take all the necessary measures. I have ordered 'May the Most High, out of love for his Prophet, render my empire victorious and triumphant on all occasions; and may all those who contribute to the success of this task obtain happiness in this world and in the next!'"

The Turks have crossed the Danube, leaving only the garrison at Kalafat. The latest despatch by the Atlantic, announcing the victory of the Turks at Oltenita, when attacked by Prince Gortschakoff on the 11th ultimo, at the head of 24,000 men, is only partially confirmed. It appears that the issue of that attack, though serving to check the Russian army, was the retirement of the Turks across the Danube. The Turks manifested a considerable warlike superiority, for they repulsed a greatly superior Russian force so effectually that they were enabled to cross the Danube without molestation, having previously destroyed their own fortifications at Oltenita.

From France we have the important statement that the Emperor is sending troops between Strasbourg and Marseilles, to be able, if necessary, to send off an army of 100,000 men in less than five days for foreign service.

FROM THE LONDON GLOBE OF NOVEMBER 16.

It appears that the reports transmitted of a lodgment of the Turks at Oltenita, of a severe battle fought near there, and of the discomfiture and retreat of the Russians, were all substantially true, and that they pointed, not to a single engagement variously related, but to a series of encounters on the same spot, at the division of this month, apparently on the 3d, the Turks crossed the Danube at Turkuks and advanced to the Wallachian village of Oltenita, a short distance from the river, where they entrenched themselves. In this position they were presently assailed by a Russian division under Gen. Perloff, (or Pauloff), which they repulsed. It then seems that the Russians, reinforced by the division of Gen. Dannenberg, renewed the attack upon Oltenita on the 4th, and that they were again defeated with still greater loss. The Emperor, it is said, has ordered the Russian army to advance with the main body of his army to attack Oltenita once more.

FROM THE LONDON TIMES OF NOVEMBER 17.

A telegraphic despatch of Tuesday evening last from Vienna reports that "the Turks repulsed the attack on their position at Oltenita on the 11th." This would seem to imply that the grand attack of Prince Gortschakoff on the 11th, which was repulsed, was the result of the success of the attempts of General Pauloff and Dannenberg before him. We are without any authentic particulars of this last engagement, but it will be recollected that the Russian commander-in-chief was described as advancing upon the Turks from Bucharest with his main body, 24,000 men, to retrieve the credit of his country on the field of battle.

The Turks were said not to have exceeded 9,000 in the conflicts of the 4th and 5th; and, though they had doubtless been considerably reinforced, it is not probable that they could have mustered in numbers so great as those attributed to Prince Gortschakoff's army. Assuming, therefore, that the telegraphic information is correct, we must conclude that the division of the Turks established at Oltenita has succeeded in defeating every attack that has been made upon it, and that the Russian division since its first lodgment, including an assault by Prince Gortschakoff in person with all the force at his command.

FROM THE LONDON TIMES OF NOVEMBER 18.

Bucharest, the Russian headquarters, is about seventeen leagues, or between fifty and sixty miles, from Oltenita, on the Danube, where the Turks were entrenched, and where, on the 11th, they were to have received the attack of Prince Gortschakoff with the Russian division under Gen. Perloff. We now know that this attack was repulsed, and it is not an improbable supposition that the Turks, following up their victory, advanced from their position at Oltenita and pursued the Russian columns in their retreat upon Bucharest. This town was said to be in flames in three places, possibly from the effect of bombardment; but there is nothing unreasonable in presuming that it might have been fired by the Russians as they evacuated it before their pursuers. Thus far the story contains little improbability; for the division under Prince Gortschakoff was the last reserve of the Russians, and the whole force indeed of their army in this part of the Principality; so that its defeat would naturally open the road to Bucharest. Our correspondent's notification, however, was dated Wednesday morning, the 16th, from Vienna, and it stated that the Turks had already passed the town of Bucharest, pressing, as we suppose, on the Russian rear. But this certainly presumes uncommon activity of operations.

The Times adds, in giving the following telegraphic despatches, that the latest news from the seat of war appears to have attained the summit of contradiction and perplexity. "Looking (it says) to the authentic character of the two first despatches, we fear they furnish, to the intelligence of the defeat of the Russians at Bucharest, published two days since." Here are the despatches:

VIENNA, NOVEMBER 17.—The Austrian Correspondent says: "On the 13th the Turks blew up their works at Oltenita and retired to Bulgaria." It is officially declared that the Austrian corps of observation, which is to be concentrated at Temeswar, is for the purpose of securing the Austrian frontier, as well as to maintain the principle of neutrality.

BUCHAREST, NOVEMBER 14.—The Turks, after destroying the fortifications at Oltenita, have recrossed the Danube without being molested. The Russian force concentrated round Oltenita amounted to 45,000 men. Shots are continually exchanged near Giurgiuvo. The Turks and Russians are both trying to get possession of the island of Mokanov, opposite Giurgiuvo. Gen. Engelhardt is advancing from Brailov on Gorna Jalonitza with a brigade of the fifth corps. He has been replaced by a

part of the reserve of the fourth corps, which have latterly entered MOLDAVIA. The reserves are estimated at 12,000 men.

VIENNA, NOVEMBER 17.—Telegraphic advices from Prince Gortschakoff, received last night, state that the Turks have quit their positions on the left bank of the Danube, except Kalafat, without battle, simply on account of the concentration and development of the Russian forces. The Turkish entrenchments have been raised. VIENNA, NOVEMBER 17, Evening.—The reports of the Turks having abandoned their positions on the left bank of the Danube, except Kalafat, without battle, simply on account of the concentration and development of the Russian forces. The Turks attempted a passage near Kalafat, and from an island opposite Giurgiuvo, but the Russians repulsed them at both places with considerable loss.

FROM THE LONDON CHRONICLE OF NOVEMBER 18.

The rumors of another Turkish victory prove unfortunately to be untrue. According to the most authentic account the main body of the Russians had been concentrated, probably at Budestchi, to the number of 45,000 men; while a brigade of the fifth army corps, under Gen. Engelhardt, was advancing on the lower road towards the district of Jalonitza. It is reported that the Turkish detachment which crossed at Kalafat was too weak to intercept the enemy in the neighborhood of the Danube; and the force which had, since the late battle, occupied Oltenita, recrossed the river, after destroying the fortifications, without sustaining any damage from the enemy.

The island which seems to be the object of the immediate struggle between the contending armies is probably that which is situated at a point in the channel between Giurgiuvo and Oltenita. Should this account prove to be true, the balance of the contest is in favor of the Russians, although it does not appear that the Russians have retrieved the laurels which they lost at Oltenita. The Turkish force seems to have been spread over too wide a space.

FROM THE LONDON GLOBE OF NOVEMBER 18.

Once more the aspect of the intelligence from Turkey is reversed, and it is now said that the Russian principal success is on the side of the Turks, but of the Russians. Before the present intelligence it was reported that the Turks had advanced from various points at which they had crossed the Danube; had taken Bucharest, and had taken the city of Giurgiuvo. It had been said that the Turkish army had crossed the Danube, and had left the latter no issue from the principalities except through Transylvania, towards which they were in full flight. By the new accounts all this is reversed. Instead of being in prisoners, the Russians, it is said, have recovered their ground, instead of intercepting them through Servia, the Turks, it is now reported, have been refused a passage across that territory; Bucharest was not on fire on the 14th, and the Turks at Oltenita have recrossed the Danube.

When we examine the intelligence somewhat more closely, it does not appear to be so decisive as it looks at first, and the story has evident marks of exaggeration. It is transmitted from the French Consulate at Bucharest to the Government at Paris, and is avowedly derived from Russian authorities. According to this account, Prince Gortschakoff had succeeded in defeating the Turks with 40,000 men; and a series of conflicts had also taken place near Giurgiuvo, a large island on the Danube, that place having been lost and won several times. The statement that the Turks have recrossed the Danube at Oltenita may be true; but, before we put very large constructions upon such a fact, we have first to learn whether they intended a permanent occupation of the left bank at that spot. At all events, it would imply that they did not hear of the success of any other divisions of the Turkish army elsewhere. The latest words represent a commanding as being heard from Bucharest, in the direction of the Danube; and the latest account from the Turkish side represents a commanding as being heard in the direction of Bucharest. The fact appears to be, therefore, that both sides are making great exertions; but success varies; but that, while the Turks have not yet obtained that victorious possession of the Principality which was prematurely announced, the Russians have not had sufficient strength seriously to molest or cripple them, and that neither side is able to bring into the field such strength as will enable her to maintain at least a respectable appearance in the campaign.

In the meanwhile the Russians evidently have suffered severely, and, as the French Consul intimates, it would be no small proof of the most favorable disposition of accounts. In the accounts thus supplied they admit several reverses. The taking of a fort at Batoum by the Turks, with a great slaughter of Russians, is to a certain extent confirmed, arms and munitions to a considerable amount are reported to have fallen into the hands of the captors; and the moral effect of this success must of course tell upon the Danube in stimulating the Moslems. At the same time, it is not to be forgotten that, at once, has at all events not been without its influence. The general tendency of the intelligence just received is, to show that nothing decisive is to be expected at once, and also to suggest the warning that we must not put upon these reports from day to day a construction too extensive.

The latest Vienna despatch announced the passage of the Pruth by the Russian General Ostenasacken, with an army of 60,000 men. The number is probably much exaggerated.

Gen. Ismail Pacha, who crossed the Danube at Kalafat, October 28th, with 24,000 men and twenty guns. They commenced to cross under cover of a dense fog, and the entire body had passed and entrenched themselves within twenty-four hours. When discovered the Russians attacked them, but were obliged to retire with the loss of six guns, as before stated.

Private letters from Vienna, dated the evening of the 14th, mention that it was positively asserted that Galatz and Braila had been attacked by the Turks. The former town is in Moldavia, on the left bank of the Danube; the latter is in Wallachia, on the right bank of the river.

Private letters from Jassy of the 6th announce that the Russians were sending their sick and wounded to Kirche-neu, a town in Bessarabia. The number of sick was increasing every day, so much so that the hospitals of Wallachia and Moldavia were insufficient to contain them.

Regarding the campaign in Asia, we have some details in a letter from Constantinople of the 6th, which says:

Yesterday, by the packet from Trebizond, news was received from Batoum; there also the Turks have well commenced the campaign. A corps of their troops has attacked by assault the fort of Nicholas Krapowsky, (called in Turkish Chekedy.) One thousand Russians were killed and eighty made prisoners. Seeing themselves cut off in the rear, the Russians, in leaving the fort, set fire to the fine new barracks, which were completely destroyed in spite of the efforts of the Turks to extinguish the flames. The fortress was defended by 3,000 men. The Turks found 2,000 carbines, made on the model of those used by the Chasseurs of Vincennes. Three pieces of cannon were also taken. The combat was very sanguinary. Five prisoners, a captain and four soldiers, have been sent here; the remainder will be detained at Carakissar. Large supplies of provisions, abandoned by the Russians, were found in the place. Twenty-nine Turkish guns, with twenty pieces of cannon, were entrenched there waiting for the arrival of the Russians. They had communications open with Widin."

The steamer from Trebizond had brought to Constantinople despatches of great interest from Selim Pacha, who is directing the operations of the Turkish forces near Batoum. On the morning of the 24th Major Massé Bey, having been sent forward with a company to reconnoitre the fortifications the Russians were making on the other side of the Tchoruk-soo, was received by a fire of musketry, which he immediately returned, and, on sending for reinforcements, Selim Pacha dispatched several battalions to his aid. The Russians, in the mean time, also increased in number, and the engagement soon became general between the two armies. Selim crossed the Tchoruk-soo at several points and drove the Russians back, after a very serious resistance. Three pieces of cannon were obliged to be returned, as far as Oréli by the Turkish General Hassan Pacha. The bulk of the Turkish troops took two pieces of cannon and made 144 prisoners, besides killing and wounding six hundred of the enemy. The Turkish force determined fight had been taken place. The Russians received reinforcements there, and then made a stout resistance to the Turkish attack. Selim took the town by storm, after two assaults. At length the Russians gave way, leaving a great number of dead, three hundred and thirty prisoners, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. The prisoners are sent to Constantinople.

Selim concludes his despatch by announcing that he is about to march on Soudun Kale, having sent out two regiments of cavalry and three batteries of field artillery in pursuit of the enemy. Before surrendering Chekedy the Russian commander set fire to it in several places, and the most of it was laid in ashes. The Turks state their own loss at the passage of Tchoruk-soo at 600 dead and 160 wounded, and at Chekedy 160 dead and 300 wounded.

The mails to hand at Liverpool on the morning of the 6th sailing would indicate that there had been a good deal of fighting wherever the posts of the two armies came in contact, but without any result of importance. Cannonading was heard in various directions, and forthwith battles were manufactured for the stockholders. Reinforcements were hurrying to the Russians, and additional levies continued to arrive at the Turkish camps. If the season will permit operations of magnitude, both parties will soon be in a position to carry them out. The island opposite Giurgiuvo had been taken and retaken several times by both sides, and at the last date remained in the hands of the Turks.

ENGLAND.

The Cabinet meets almost daily, but, whatever the result of the deliberations, the public are not enlightened on the subject.

Capt. Ingfield's sketches, made in the Arctic regions, are on view to the London public.

Four thousand of the colliers at Wigan have returned to their work at the old prices. About one thousand still hold out. Some manifestations of riot have occurred at Blackburn, but nothing serious.

The building of the Dublin Exhibition is converted into a promenade, with military bands, and the small sum is charged for admission, and the building will be allowed to stand for some time if the receipts pay expenses.

FRANCE.

The trial of the "Opera Comique" conspirators against the life of the Emperor has been brought to a close. Six of the prisoners were acquitted, and twenty-two found guilty, with extenuating circumstances. Of the latter, seven have been sentenced to transportation, three to eight years' exile, and the rest to terms of imprisonment varying from five to ten years. Tollet, Alix, and Desrochers' term is eight years; Rualt, Lux, Gérard, de Merce, Maviet, Giehr, and Copin, transportation; Monchiroud, ten years' detention; Maillet, Dorez, Jand, Commes, and Jorion, five years' detention; Ribault de Laugaudiere, five years' imprisonment; and Follet, three years' imprisonment.

GERMANY.

The Archbishop of Freiburg has excommunicated the members of the Catholic Ecclesiastical Council appointed by the Government, and also the Government Commissioner. The Regent has forbidden the clergy to pronounce the act of excommunication, and threatens the Archbishop with pains and penalties.

RUSSIA.

The Journal of St. Petersburg of October 27th mentions that the English residents of that city had received from the Minister of Finance, in name of the Emperor, the most satisfactory assurances of protection to their persons and property in the possible event of a rupture between Russia and England. They had addressed to the Emperor through M. de Bruck "the expression of their respectful gratitude for so magnanimous a mark of his solicitude."

A new levy of seven in 1,000 is ordered throughout the Eastern part of the empire.

FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, NOVEMBER 17, 1853.

You will have received doubtless by the Liverpool steamer of the 16th, since the date of my last, the three important documents which have just been published touching the Russo-Turkish war now raging. I allude to the circular despatch of M. DE NESSELORE, addressed to Russian diplomatic agents at foreign Courts, dated October 31st, (October 19 O. S.), the manifesto of his Russian Majesty himself, dated one day later, and the comments on the latter document, published last Sunday in the official journal, the *Moniteur* of Paris. You will have appreciated these papers, and have remarked that they corroborate, in a remarkable manner, the speculations already emitted by the Intelligence relative to the probable course to be taken by events in the East. The position of Russia, as defined in the two first-mentioned official Russian documents—a position the sincerity of which no events which have yet transpired are of a nature to make us question—was distinctly defined by you several months ago. It is one of unyielding persistence in the terms of her ultimatum; continued provisional occupation of the Principality till the ultimatum shall have been accepted by Turkey; the resolute defence of that military occupation, accompanied with the explicit disclaimer of all intention to cross the Danube and attempt the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire by permanent territorial conquests.

The first remark one is constrained to make on reading the manifesto is in reference to the religious character with which the Czar is solicitous to invest this war in the minds of his subjects. He knows that it is upon religious subjects alone that it would be possible to excite an enthusiasm which would make the hordes which compose the mass of his armies more efficient soldiers in a foreign war. They are ignorantly and bigotedly Greek, and therefore easily made the subject of a fierce religious fanaticism, which, once excited, becomes quite as efficient for all the Czar's purposes as would prove (I had almost said will prove) the political popular enthusiasm to which Napoleon would appeal in a war for extending French limits to the Rhine, and which would burst forth so magnificently in the United States if a war should become necessary in support of the "Monroe doctrine" touching European interference in America. Besides, the enthusiasm of which the Czar is now making use is a much safer element of power for himself than would be the political enthusiasm which may be provoked in States of a more advanced civilization.

The only remark which I have to make upon the circular of M. de Nesseloire is, that while it contains very explicit avowments of the Czar's intention to remain purely on the defensive, avoiding further aggressive measures, it takes especially special care to speak of this moderation in the present tense. Thus, "for the moment" the Czar is so pacifically disposed as ever; he "has not, for all that, as yet" abandoned the position assumed in the circular of July 24; "at the present moment" the intentions of his august master remain the same. One is almost led to suppose that M. de Nesseloire is announcing and would prepare the way for an advance to a more hostile and aggressive policy on the part of Russia. But, as yet, my confidence is unshaken in the correctness of the considerations heretofore presented as determining the Czar's course in this war. I still think that those considerations will prevail to keep him from committing any act of a nature to provoke an abandonment of their neutrality by England and France, until events shall have occurred to induce him no longer to apprehend their co-operation in the East.

The page of comment in the *Moniteur* by which the Czar's manifesto was introduced to French readers flatteringly but politely contradicts the leading avowments of the Czar in justification of his position. It is not, however, of a very warlike aspect when one reads it for the purpose of discovering some indication of the future course of France. It may therefore, as it contains nothing contradictory, be taken as confirmatory of the view all along taken in the Intelligence of the role to be played by France during the war. That view is further corroborated by the similar inconclusive character of an imposing multi-column article just published simultaneously in the two semi-official journals, the *Pays* and the *Constitutionnel*. These two papers, which have played so conspicuous a part in public affairs in France during the last few years, have just been united so as to form a single individual, a sort of Siamese twins in the natural history of journalism. While the distinct identity of each is preserved in many particulars—each retaining its old corps of political and literary editors, and its separate subscription list—the two have been united under the supreme political direction of one man. The Jupiter Tonans who presides over this new Olympus is the illustrious M. DE LA GUERONNIERE, the ex-legitimist, the ex-republican, the non-imperialist newspaper writer, of whom, since December, 1851, I have had frequent occasion to speak. He is the most elegant and imposing political phrasemaker of the Lamartine school in whom French journalism rejoices. Jupiter-Guérondier, from the top of his Olympus, will "shake his ambrosial curls" for the amusement and instruction of mankind. He will, it is understood, write but rarely:

"Nec Deus interit, nisi dignus vindice nodus incidit."

And when he does write both journals are to be simultaneously charged with the communication of his thought

to expectant Europe. An event of this sort has just occurred. On Tuesday the new journal, *Pays-Constitutionnel*, published, *utrisque orbi*, the first issue of M. de la G. "Turkey and Russia before Europe" was its title. It was decidedly anti-Russian, but not offensive or warlike. It expressed confidence that the war would continue local and confined to its actual parties, and was as indefinite touching the future course of France as was the article of comment on the Czar's manifesto in the *Moniteur* of the Saturday previous. France and England, therefore, it may be confidently argued, do not yet see occasion to abandon their attitude of armed, distrustful, vigilant inaction. And we received yesterday in Paris official information confirming the belief we have always entertained of the pacific disposition and intended neutrality of Austria and Prussia. The Germanic Diet is now in session. Last Thursday (10th November) the Austrian delegate, President of the Assembly, declared that he had been charged by his Government to make to the Diet a communication of the Austrian policy in relation to the Russo-Russian war then raging. The sincere efforts of Austria and of the other allied Powers had not been able to prevent a definitive rupture between the Czar and the Sultan. War was declared and was flagrant; yet, notwithstanding this deplorable result, the Austrian Government had just operated a considerable diminution in the effective force of its standing army.

"It was not (continues the Austrian delegate) till after mature examination of the political affairs of Europe and of the